



University of Connecticut Health Center
John Dempsey Hospital

Testimony
General Law Committee

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HB 5329, An Act Concerning The Use Of Telepharmacy By Hospitals

Distinguished members of the General Law Committee, my name is Mike H. Summerer, MD, FACPE, Chief Executive Officer, John Dempsey Hospital. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 5329, An Act Concerning The Use Of Telepharmacy By Hospitals**.

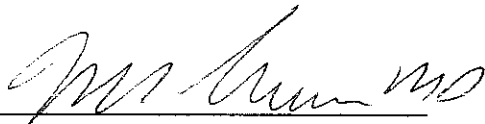
The University of Connecticut Health Center (Health Center), as you know, is the State of Connecticut's only public academic medical center and public acute care hospital, the John Dempsey Hospital (JDH). JDH is a vital clinical resource to the University for the teaching and research programs of the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine and to the state's most vulnerable citizens. The Health Center is the State's primary source of new physicians and dentists, an essential provider of vital health services to some of our most vulnerable citizens, and an important engine of economic growth and vitality. Its mission as an "integrated academic medical center" is improving the health of Connecticut's people through the innovative integration of education, research, and clinical care. And through the recently enacted Bioscience Connecticut (PA11-75) and the related Jackson Labs initiatives (PA11-2, October Special Session), the Health Center will play an even more pivotal role in strengthening Connecticut's economy by creating construction-related jobs immediately and generating long-term sustainable economic growth based on bioscience research, innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialization. The Health Center remains grateful to the Governor and the General Assembly for your investment and confidence. By implementing these initiatives, the Health Center will also be transformed and its future viability secured. But more importantly, Connecticut is positioned to be a global leader in the growing field of bioscience, driven by stem cell research, systems genomics and personalized medicine, and will derive enormous public health and economic benefits for the foreseeable future. We are proceeding aggressively with the planning and implementation of the Bioscience Connecticut Initiative (we expect to break ground on the initial construction projects -- the garage, site work and utility relocations for the new hospital project in June).

I join my colleagues from the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) in supporting HB 5329 permitting all of Connecticut's hospitals to participate in a telepharmacy initiative on a permanent basis similar to what was contained in PA11-242. The public act

permitted the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), in consultation with the Department of Public Health, to establish a telepharmacy pilot program in one Connecticut hospital and its satellite locations. In January, DCP issued a letter of approval for the telepharmacy pilot program that is in place at Yale-New Haven Hospital. The current pilot allows for patients to receive IV care and treatment closer to home, with a pharmacist at Yale-New Haven Hospital providing real-time audio and visual review of the activities of a pharmacy technician working at the satellite location. In addition, the pharmacy technician takes photographs of the sterile products at each step of the process for real-time review and verification, as well as long-term technical storage and quality review.

Passage of HB 5329 will permit all Connecticut's hospitals to participate in similar telepharmacy initiatives on a permanent basis, provided they meet the same quality standards outlined in the current pilot and are in compliance with DCP pharmacy regulations. We at the John Dempsey Hospital are supportive of the bill and the prospect of participating in this worthwhile effort that will bring quality care closer to patients' homes. We understand the CHA has offered minor technical changes to the language on lines 45-46 in their testimony; we support their suggested changes.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request your support of HB 5329.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike Summerer", is written over a horizontal line.

Mike H. Summerer, M.D., FACPE
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